

Reporting Fair Housing Act violations to the attorney general

HB 1457 by Hudson (Ellis)

- DIGEST:** HB 1457 would have required the community affairs division of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to periodically report to the attorney general information about violations of federal fair housing laws in government subsidized housing. The department would have been required to review the extent of these violations and the effectiveness of methods used by the federal government to remedy racial discrimination in subsidized housing. The Attorney General's Office would have been required to forward information concerning a lack of effective enforcement of the fair housing laws to the appropriate federal authorities, and make recommendations to those authorities to increase the state's enforcement of the laws. The department could not duplicate the efforts of other state agencies,
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** The Texas Commission on Human Rights currently enforces the Fair Housing Act. House Bill 1457 proposes to involve two other state agencies. This is clearly a duplicative effort which would create more bureaucracy through additional cost to the citizens of Texas.
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Sam Hudson, the author of HB 1457, said: "This was a mistaken interpretation of the enforcement of the Fair Housing Act."
- NOTES:** HB 1457 was analyzed in Part Five of the May 8 *Daily Floor Report*.